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HIGH SCHOOL MASSACRE

‘A HORRIFIC DAY’

- 17 slaughtered, 16 injured in Parkland; gunman arrested
- Former student’s social media posts ‘very disturbing’
- Some anguished parents still can’t get hold of their children

JOHN MCCALL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students are released from a lockdown Wednesday outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Victims included students and adults, with 12 shot dead inside the school, two outside, one in the street, and two dying at the hospital.

By David Fleshler, Aric Chokey, Lisa J. Huriash and Linda Trischitta
Staff writers

The deadliest school shooting since Sandy Hook erupted Wednesday as authorities say a 19-year-old man with a troubled past and an AR-15 rifle stalked the halls of Parkland’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Cruz

Expelled from the school over disciplinary problems, Nikolas Cruz is accused of squeezing off shot after shot as students took cover under desks, fire alarms blared and teachers barricaded classrooms. By the time it was over, 17 people were dead or dying, and 16 were wounded.

Anguished relatives and friends were keeping vigils into the night Wednesday for teenagers still missing.

“Find her alive!” Vicki Alhadeff said about her granddaughter, Alyssa Alhadeff, 15. “We know she’s missing. We can’t find her. The phone was tracked to the school.”

Alyssa is one of several teenagers who were not answering their cellphones after the mass shooting at the school where 3,208 high school students are enrolled.

Worried friends are posting the missing kids’ names and photos on Twitter and Facebook.

Gathered in Coral Springs was the Pollack family, awaiting word from Meadow Pollock, 18.

See ***MASSACRE, 9A***

COMPLETE COVERAGE

EXCLUSIVE VIDEO: Student’s video from inside the school. **SunSentinel.com/shotsheard**

PHOTO GALLERY: More photos from the scene. **SunSentinel.com/school-photos**

POLITICAL FALLOUT: South Florida politicians renew calls for stricter gun measures. **8A**

HELP COPING: Experts offer advice on how parents can talk to traumatized teens. **8A**

ABOUT THE VICTIMS: Those shot include students, the school’s athletic director and an assistant football coach shot trying to protect students. **8A**

‘I’M SHAKING’: Students hid, held each other as attack unfolded. **8A**

EDITORIAL: School massacre must spur action. **11A**

MIKE STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hands raised, students are evacuated from the school by police. Officers from multiple agencies and SWAT team members responded to reports of an active shooter on campus about 2:40 p.m.

“Kids were running out full of blood. Kids were falling in the grass.”

Derval Walton, parent

Shooting suspect had been kicked out of school

By Paula McMahon, Stephen Hobbs, Anne Geggis and Scott Travis
Staff writers

Adopted at birth by a loving older couple, Nikolas Cruz seemed to struggle in recent years. His dad died when he was much younger and the 19-year-old’s mother died just 3½ months ago, neighbors, friends and family members said.

The portrait of the suspected gunman that emerged was of a troubled former student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who had been expelled for disciplinary problems.

Cruz was arrested without incident at a nearby house shortly after Wednesday afternoon’s shootings, which left 17 people dead and several more injured, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said.

Cruz’s mother, Lynda Cruz, died Nov. 1, after an unspecified illness. She was 68.

Family member Barbara Kumbatovich, of Long Island, N.Y., said she had heard media reports about the mass shooting in

See ***CRUZ, 9A***

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